



Green Tier

Outside Environmental Auditors

Approval Requirements



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Statutory Requirements

Green Tier law requires that outside auditors who conduct environmental management system (EMS) audits of Green Tier participants be approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). [§299.83\(7m\)](#), reads: “The Department may not approve an outside environmental auditor for the purposes of [sub. 3\(d\)4. or \(5\)\(c\)2](#) unless the outside environmental auditor is accredited by an accreditation body that complies with standards of the International Organization for Standardization for accreditation bodies or meets criteria concerning education, training, experience, and performance that the department determines are equivalent to the criteria in the standards and guidance of the International Organization for Standardization for entities providing audit and certification of environmental management systems.”

The term outside environmental auditor is defined in [§299.83\(1dr\)](#) as “an auditor who is functionally or administratively independent of the facility or activity being audited, but who may be employed by the entity that owns the facility being audited or that owns the unit that conducts the activity being audited.”

Exemplar Global Certification

The department has chosen [Exemplar Global](#)’s EMS Auditor certification as the primary standard for Green Tier approved auditors. Exemplar Global’s program ensures that auditors meet or exceed the qualification guidelines for management systems described in ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 19011:2018.

Requirements for Exemplar Global Certified Auditors

If an auditor is Exemplar Global certified as a Principal EMS Auditor, a Lead EMS Auditor or a Business Improvement EMS Auditor, the DNR will recognize they have met the requirements of an outside environmental auditor under Green Tier law.

To become an approved Green Tier auditor, the auditor should supply:

- A resume
- An audit log from the most recent year
- A copy of their certification from Exemplar Global

Requirements for non-Exemplar Global Certified Auditors

Individual auditors not certified as a Principal EMS Auditor, a Lead EMS Auditor or a Business Improvement EMS Auditor by Exemplar Global must demonstrate they have the knowledge, skills and qualifications to be recognized by the department as an authorized outside environmental auditor for Green Tier per [§299.83\(7m\)](#).

To be considered for approval by the DNR the applicant must supply a letter identifying their training, experience and skills. It should provide details about how the proposed auditor satisfies these criteria:

- Possesses a certificate of successful completion of a certified environmental auditor course
- Provides evidence of work experience in a technical or managerial role with *direct environmental management responsibilities* in two of the last four years
- Provides evidence of at least 20 audit days of environmental management system audit experience
- Provides evidence of at least four complete environmental management system audits as a member of an audit team

Green Tier will review all complete applications and advise the applicant of their decision within 30 days.

All approved auditors are recognized on [the DNR’s website](#) as approved Green Tier/EMS auditors.

To submit documents for approval or for more information, please contact Green Tier:

[Laurel Sukup](#)
608-267-6817
GreenTier@Wisconsin.gov

